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Approved For Release 2000/04/18 . CIA-RDP82-00457R60680006 INFORMATION REPORT

. COUNTRY

Albania/Greece

DATE DISTR, 15 SUP 50

SUBJECT

The activities of abas armeni in Greece

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PLACE **ACQUIRED**

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SUPPLEMENT TO



- The return to Athens from Italy of the Albanian refugee Abas Grmeni, * who a year ago left Greece with the help of the British, created unusual excitement among the Northern Spirote circles and among the Albanian political refugees in Greece. They were anxious to learn the purpose of his coming to Greece in order to oppose his plans.
- The Albanians received ... rateri with some scepticism. They had information that he was an agent of the British, that he had gone to Trieste in 1949 and signed an agreement with a representative of Tito, Kasanovic (sic,, to subject Albania to the influence of Tito, and that he and the Balli Kommetar were turning towards Titoism. As a result the Albanian refugees showed no great enthusiasm about his coming to Greece.
- desig those with whom armeni was in contact were Luan Gashi, Luharrem raktari, Ibrahim Kelmendi, and Jup Binjaku. Armeni said that he had come to Greece by order of the Anglo-Americans. When the Albanians replied that the British and the Americans are not in agreement on the Albanian problem, Ermeni assured them that he is acting on orders of both Allies, British and American, and that they are in agreement. Furthermore, he said that there is no Northern apirote problem for the Albanians, and that Greece must accept the boundaries of 1939.
- Ermeni did not reveal the real purpose of his coming to Athens, or if he did, he disclosed it only to his most trusted men, who thus far have not revealed it.
- Four days after Armeni's arrival in Athens a letter from the Albanian refugee Ismajl Verlaci came to Evangelos Kyrkos. This letter reported that armeni's purpose in coming to athens was to organize Titoist cells in Greece, which would undertake to channel propaganda into Albania to the effect that only Tito will liberate Albania, that the Albanian people must support the ef orts of Tito, and that all Albanian refugees must orient themselves in that direction. Verlaci also wrote that frmeni belongs to the leftist clique of Balli Kombetar, and that Ali Klissura would cause a split in that party in order to fight against the plans of the Titoist Albanians. Verlaci recommended opposition to the activities of armeni. Kyrkos immediately referred the letter to the Greek authorities and also to the Albanian refugees. The refugees, as a result of this letter, avoided coming in contact with

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Ermeni, with the exception of those already mentioned. At the same time the refugees began to organize their opposition. The refugees in the Lavrion camp made preparations to show their "disapproval" of Ermeni in case he should go there to visit them. Ermeni either learned of this or the Greek authorities forbade his visiting Lavrion, so he did not go there but stayed at the Notel Bristol during the entire period of his stay in Athens.

- 6. The arrival of Ermeni in Athens and the report of Verlaci indicating that he had gone over to Titoism gave rise to the expression of a strong anti-Slav feeling among the Albanian refugees. Among other manifestations the Albanian General Frenk Frevizi attacked Ermeni, calling him a traitor.
- 7. A parallel movement was provoked by Grmeni among the Northern Epirotes. Source pointed out that the latter are anti-Slav, and when the information sent by Verlaci was made known; they all united against him and made representations to the Greek authorities. Mevertheless, certain of them, including Manadimas (Thu) visited Ermeni and talked with him. Armeni did not fail to let rapadimas know that he was acting in accordance with his incorructions from the British and the Americans. In the opinion of source, Faradimas came to some agreement with Armeni, but it is not known what her ened.
- 8. In 1946 Ermeni submitted to the Greek Government a memorandum in which he supported the proposal to unite Greece and Albania into one state. Kyrkos has now turned over to the Northern Epirotes and to the Albanians a copy of this memorandum, which Ermeni had concealed from the Albanians. In view of his present statement that Greece must accept the boundaries of 1939, the memorandum revealed Ermeni as being inconsistent and lacking in firm convictions. This was one of the reasons why Ermeni did not receive a warm welcome from the refugees as he had hoped.
- 9. At the time of immeni's visit to Greece, party strength of the Albanian refugees in Greece was as follows: Kossovars (followers of Khafer Deva) 60; Zogists (followers of Spai Dina) 45; Ballists (followers of Klissura) 18; Ballists (followers of immeni) 7; Independents (Verlaci) 23; miscellaneous 35.
- 10. Ermeni told an acquaintance in Athens that he is still of the opinion that Greece and Albania ought to unite as one state, that he had not departed completely from the memorandum which he had submitted in 1946 to the Greek Government, that the Greek Government should appoint a representative to handle this question in a responsible way, and that the anti-Glav (sic) progaganda of Greece should stop, especially the activity of RAVa.
- Athens. To a veiled reference to Tito and his possibilities of overthrowing Hoxha by an internal revolution, breeni said that Tito does not have followers in Albania and that he can never rouse the people against Hoxha. He also said that there are no followers of Tito among the Albanian refugees abroad. Then it was observed that Tito is still a Communist, and that anyone who collaborates with Communists awaits the fate of Petkov and others, Ermeni made no reply.
- 12. Evangelos Kyrkos talked with Georgios Exindaris, Greek Ambassador to Italy, and the latter declared himself in favor of the union of Greece and Albania.
- 13. According to what Constantine hendis told Kyrkos, the new Permanent Under-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Politis, had the same idea and would receive Kyrkos soon.
- 14. The Northern Spirote League "Selasforos" had taken a position against the union of Greece and Albania and had published articles opposing it. Recently,

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however, an article of the President of the League Colonel Charisiades, published in the periodical Vorioepirotika Niata came out in favor of Union.

15. Muharrem Bajraktari disagreed with Ermeni regarding the leadership (sic), insisting that it belonged to him. In this connection, source noted that Bajraktari is a friend of the Slavs and that he is collaborating with the British.

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Setween 15 June and 1 July 1950;

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